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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/935,565	08/24/2001	Joseph De Bellis	5607	9677
38598 7590 06/01/2007 ANDREWS KURTH LLP 1350 I STREET, N.W. SUITE 1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER WONG, LESLIE	
			ART UNIT 2164	PAPER NUMBER
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/935,565

Applicant(s)

DE BELLIS, JOSEPH

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 41-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-19, 32-36 and 41-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7, 14 and 20-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Terminal Disclaimer***

1. Receipt of Applicant's Terminal Disclaimer, filed 03 June 2005, is acknowledged.

***Election/Restrictions***

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-14 and 20-31, drawn to format and display data, classified in class 707, subclass 104.1.
  - II. Claims 15-19, 32-36, and 41-45, drawn to searching database, classified in class 707, subclass 3.
3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I - II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, each of the respective inventions has a separate utility as in a system not having the others. See M.P.E.P. § 806.05(d).
4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for the other Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Sumeet Magoon on 21 May 2007, a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of claims 1-14 and 20-31. Claims 15-19, 32-36, and 41-45 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected.

8. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

9. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maloney et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,701,453) in view of **Chew et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,593,949 B1).

Regarding claim 3, **Maloney et al.** teaches a method for formatting data for display, comprising:

- a). generating a list of data fields (Fig. 18);
- b). receiving a first data field selection from the list of data fields (col. 3, lines 7-10 );
- c). determining a first quantity indicative of a number of entries of the selected data field (col. 16, lines 6-8);
- d). **Maloney et al.** does not explicitly teaches a step wherein if the quantity exceeds a specified limit, reducing a number of characters to be displayed for each entry from the selected data field, and displaying the reduced number of characters for each entry from of the database field.

**Chew et al.**, however, teaches wherein if the quantity exceeds a specified limit, reducing a number of characters to be displayed for each entry from the selected data

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field, and displaying the reduced number of characters for each entry from of the database field (col. 5, lines 30-41; col. 6, lines 62-66; col. 3, lines 60-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to allow the step of truncating the result set when it exceeded the predetermined threshold as taught by **Chew et al.** as this would enable the system to manage and control the result to be displayed to the users based on the limited sized screen.

Regarding claim 14, **Chew et al.** further teach a step receiving a first constraint, wherein the first constraint is related to a data element in a data field; and receiving one or more subsequent constraints, wherein search results are generated based on a combination of the first and the one or more subsequent constraints (col. 4, lines 49-58; col. 5, lines 19-22; col. 6, lines 10-27).

12. Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maloney et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,701,453) in view of **Crandall et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,321,228 B1).

Regarding claim 20, **Maloney et al.** teaches a method for searching a database, comprising:

- a). generating a list of data fields (Fig. 18);

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- b). receiving a first data field selection from the list of data fields (col. 3, lines 7-10);
- c). receiving a first constraint, wherein the first constraint is related to a data element in a data field (col. 3, lines 7-10; col. 5, lines 23-26);
- d). generating a first search result based on the first constraint (col. 4, lines 13-14);
- e). displaying a menu, wherein the menu is populated with the first result (col. 4, lines 26-39);

**Maloney et al.** does not explicitly teach the steps of:

- f). receiving one or more subsequent constraints; and
- g). conducting a second search, wherein the one or more subsequent constraints are used to search at least data associated with the first search result to generate a second search result.

**Crandall et al.**, however, teaches the steps of:

receiving one or more subsequent constraints (col. 5, lines 25-29) and  
conducting a second search, wherein the one or more subsequent constraints are used to search at least data associated with the first search result to generate a second search result (col. 5, lines 30-41; col. 6, lines 11-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to allow the step of receiving one or more query constraints as

taught by **Crandall et al.** as this would allow user to refine the query to generate the search results to meet user's criteria.

Regarding claim 21, **Maloney et al.** does not explicitly teaches steps of:

- a). determining a first quantity indicative of a number of entries of the selected data field;
- b). if the first quantity exceeds a specified limit, reducing a size of data to be displayed from the selected data field; and
- c). displaying data from the selected data field.

**Crandall et al.**, however, teaches wherein if the quantity exceeds a specified limit, reducing a size of data to be displayed from the selected data field (col. 6, lines 13-15); and displaying data from the selected data field (col. 8, lines 25-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to allow the step of truncating the result set when it exceeded the predetermined threshold as taught by **Crandall et al.** as this would enable the system to manage and control the result to be displayed to the users based on the predetermined threshold.

13. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maloney et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,701,453) in view of **Chew et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,593,949 B1) as applied to claims 3 and 14 above and further in view of **Mani et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,848,406).



Regarding claims 4, 5, and 7, **Maloney et al. and Crandall et al.**, do not explicitly teach a step wherein the specified limit is fixed, variable, or user-determined limit.

**Mani et al.**, however, teaches a step wherein the specified limit is fixed, variable, or user-determined limit (col. 5, lines 22-25 and lines 35-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the step of defining the display threshold as taught by **Mani et al.** in order to allow a user to make use of very small display surface such as mobile computers or PDA to allow data to fit on the display screen of a specific device.

Regarding claim 6 , **Maloney et al. and Crandall et al.**, do not teach a step wherein the data are displayed on a terminal, and wherein the specified limit is determined dynamically, based on a characteristic of the terminal.

However, **Mani et al.** teaches a step wherein the data are displayed on a terminal, and wherein the specified limit is determined dynamically, based on a characteristic of the terminal (col. 2, lines 23-33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the feature of displaying data based a characteristic of the terminal as taught by **Mani et al.** because it would accommodate various kinds of terminals having different display capabilities.

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14. Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maloney et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,701,453) in view of **Crandall et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,321,228 B1) as applied to claims 20-21 above and further in view of **Mani et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,848,406).

Regarding claims 22, 23, and 25, **Maloney et al. and Crandall et al.**, do not explicitly teach a step wherein the specified limit is fixed, variable, or user-determined limit.

**Mani et al.**, however, teaches a step wherein the specified limit is fixed, variable, or user-determined limit (col. 5, lines 22-25 and lines 35-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the step of defining the display threshold as taught by **Mani et al.** in order to allow a user to make use of very small display surface such as mobile computers or PDA to allow data to fit on the display screen of a specific device.

Regarding claim 24, **Maloney et al. and Crandall et al.**, do not teach a step wherein the data are displayed on a terminal, and wherein the specified limit is determined dynamically, based on a characteristic of the terminal.

However, **Mani et al.** teaches a step wherein the data are displayed on a terminal, and wherein the specified limit is determined dynamically, based on a characteristic of the terminal (col. 2, lines 23-33).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the feature of displaying data based a characteristic of

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the terminal as taught by **Mani et al.** because it would accommodate various kinds of terminals having different display capabilities.

Regarding claim 26, **Crandall et al.** further teach a step wherein the method for reducing the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field comprises:

a). performing a truncation that reduces the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field (col. 6, lines 13-15);

**Maloney et al. and Crandall et al.**, do not explicitly teach the steps of:

b). comparing the reduced size to the specified limit; and

c). if the reduced size exceeds the specified limit, repeating the truncation and comparing steps until the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field is less than or equal to the specified limit.

However, **Mani et al.** teaches a step wherein the method for reducing the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field comprises:

b). comparing the reduced size to the specified limit (col. 5, lines 39-40);

and

c). if the reduced size exceeds the specified limit, repeating the truncation and comparing steps until the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field is less than or equal to the specified limit (col. 5, lines 39-49).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the feature of reducing the size exceeds the specified limit and repeating the truncation and comparing steps until the size of the data to be

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displayed from the selected data field is less than or equal to the specified limit as taught by **Mani et al.** in order to adjust the output to fit the display area of various devices.

15. Claims 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maloney et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,701,453) in view of **Crandall et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,321,228 B1) and in view of **Mani et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,848,406) as applied to claims 4-8 and 27 above and further in view of **Heckel** (U.S. Patent 4,486,857).

Regarding claims 27-31, **Maloney et al.**, **Crandall et al.**, and **Mani et al.**, do not explicitly teach a step wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises dividing the parameter by a value and wherein the value is two.

However, **Heckel** teaches a step wherein a parameter is related to the size of the data to be displayed from the selected data field, and wherein the truncation comprises dividing the parameter by a value and wherein the value is integer (col. 5, line 7 – col. 6, line 14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the data reduction method as taught by **Heckel** to calculate the display capacity of the target terminal and determine if the selected data field need to be adjusted in order to fit on the display.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

16. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record fails to teach a combination of elements including wherein the method for reducing the number of characters to be displayed from the selected data field comprises: performing a truncation that reduces the number of characters to be displayed from the selected data field; comparing the reduced number of characters to the specified limitation; and if the reduced number of characters exceeds the specified limit, repeating the truncation and comparing steps until the reduced number of characters to be displayed from the selected data field is less than or equal to the specified limit.

Claims 9-13 are also objected to as being dependent upon claim 8.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

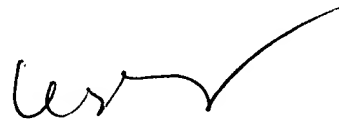
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES RONES can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Wong', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leslie Wong  
Primary Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2164

LW  
May 25, 2007